

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-03

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: LECTURER EXCHANGE: TRAVEL TO MOSCOW BY CIES REPS

REF: MOSCOW A-214 OF JULY 17, 1976

1. CU/EE BELIEVES THAT ONE REASON THE LECTURER PROGRAM WITH THE SOVIET UNION HAS EXPERIENCED SO MANY DIFFICULTIES IS THAT THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM-- CIES AND MHE--HAVE RELIED ALMOST ENTIRELY ON INDIRECT COMMUNICATION. NORMAL SOVIET BUREAUCRATIC SLIPPAGE HAS THUS BEEN ALLOWED TO PLAY MORE OF A ROLE IN THE PROGRAM THAN NECESSARY, WITH INSENSITIVITY TO DEADLINES COMING ESPECIALLY TO THE FORE. CIES IS NOT BLAMELESS IN THIS REGARD, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT NEW, MORE DIRECT CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WOULD HELP CONSIDERABLY.

2. WE ARE THUS PLEASED THAT MARTIN GIBBS, A PROFESSOR OF PLANT PHYSIOLOGY AT BRANDEIS, WHO IS MEMBER OF CIES ADVISORY COUNCIL WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOVIET AND EASTERN

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EUROPEAN PROGRAMS, WILL BE TRAVELING TO MOSCOW OCT 4-7 TO

CONSULT WITH SOVIET COLLEAGUES IN HIS FIELD AT MGU. DURING HIS STAY THERE, HE IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE LECTURER PROGRAM WITH MHE, MINED, AND OF COURSE WITH THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE. GIBBS IS PROMINENT IN HIS FIELD, A MEMBER

OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, AND WILL BE A VOICE TO WHICH THE SOVIET ACADEMY SHOULD LISTEN.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT GIBBS' DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS WILL BE A HELPFUL FOLLOW-UP TO BILLINGTON'S DISCUSSIONS ON THE SAME SUBJECTS. WHILE BILLINGTON'S PRESENTATION WILL BE MORE GENERAL, GIBBS WILL BE SUFFICIENTLY WELL BRIEFED TO DISCUSS OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS IN THE PROGRAM WITH HIS SOVIET HOSTS. CU/EE WILL PARTICIPATE IN PREPARING AN AGENDA FOR HIS TALKS, AND BRIEFING PAPERS AS WELL.

4. THE GIBBS' VISIT WILL SERVE TO FOCUS SOVIET ATTENTION ON THE NOV 1 DEADLINE FOR FIELD AND NAME REQUESTS, AND TO REMIND THEM THAT STILL ANOTHER CIES DELEGATION--PROBABLY CHAIRMAN VIRGIL BOEKLHEIDE, OF THE CIES ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EASTERN EUROPE, AND GENE LOVECKY, WHO HANDLES DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS FOR THE EASTERN EUROPEAN PROGRAM--WILL BE ARRIVING IN MOSCOW IN EARLY NOVEMBER TO EXCHANGE THE REQUEST LISTS AND TO DISCUSS OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS WITH SOVIETS AND EMBASSY.

5. REQUEST THAT THE EMBASSY MAKE APPROPRIATE HIGH-LEVEL APPOINTMENTS FOR GIBBS WITH THE ACADEMY AFTERNOON, REPEAT AFTERNOON OF OCT 6 AND WITH MHE AND MINED OCT 11. GIBBS WOULD TAKE TIME FROM HIS OTHER MEETINGS OCT 5-7 TO MEET WITH MGU RECTOR KHOKHLOV IF THAT CAN BE ARRANGED.

6. GIBBS WILL ARRIVE IN LENINGRAD OCT 2 ON SU 638 AT 2125. HE DOES NOT NEED CONGEN ASSISTANCE, BUT WOULD BE HAPPY TO MEET WITH CONGEN REP IF THAT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR CONGEN. HE DEPARTS FOR MOSCOW OCT 4, ARRIVING AT 12:56 ON SU 2416. WE RECOMMEND EMBASSY MEET HIM AT AIRPORT. ROBINSON

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